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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 27, 2006. In the Office Action, (i) claims 1, 2 and 5-26 were allowed; (ii) claims 3, 4 and 27-29 were rejected; and (iii) claims 3 and 27 were objected to. Reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

No claims have been added by this response. Claims 3, 4 and 27-29 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and -5-26 remain at issue in the patent application. Of those at issue, claims 1, 5, 9, 15 and 21 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

D) ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and -5-26 were allowed. [Office Action pages 5-6]. Applicant hereby acknowledges the allowance of claims 1, 2 and -5-26 and thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1, 2 and -5-26.

II) OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 8 AND 20

Claims 3 and 27 were objected to because of informalities [Office Action page 2].

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing objections have now been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 3 and 27.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objections to claims 3 and 27.

III) CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipate by Sen et al (U.S. Patent 6,765,909). [Office Action, pages 2-3].

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections have now been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 3 and 4.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claims 3 and 4.

IV) CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zicker (U.S. Patent 5,774,805). [Office Action, pages 3-4].

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections have now been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 27-29.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 27-29.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1, 2 and 5-26 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (858) 658-2447 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 24, 2006

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